

Remarks

This Amendment supplements the claims in accordance with the Applicant's representation in the submission for the RCE filed on July 28, 2008. The new and amended claims resolve issues raised by the Examiner in connection with the telephone interview that the Examiner afforded Applicant on July 10, 2008. That interview followed two brief preliminary interviews of June 17, 2008 and July 3, 2008, primarily for the purpose of scheduling the interview of July 10. In the preliminary interviews, the Examiner informed Applicant that claim scope that including replacement of entire chambers accounted in part for the previous rejections, and identified additional references, as set forth in the Examiner's interview summary dated June 24, 2008.

In the interview of July 10, 2008, claim language essentially as set forth in claim 34 was discussed with no agreement reached as to patentability.

The new and amended claims more clearly limit the claimed subject matter to a system and method in which internal components from a processing module are removed or replaced by control of the wafer transfer system that is provided in such systems and used therein for the transfer of wafers to and from the processing modules for vacuum processing. The internal components are maintenance items transferred within the system without exposing the inside of the system to an atmospheric pressure environment.

It is submitted that the new claims relate to subject matter that is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the references of record, and that the claims as presently presented are therefore allowable.

In the event that the Examiner finds any formal or other problems with the present claims, a telephone conference with the undersigned is respectfully requested to authorize amendments to place the application in condition for allowance.

Application No. 10/803,805
Preliminary Amendment dated August 7, 2008
RCE filed July 28, 2008

If any additional charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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